

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claim 1. (currently amended)      A improved game ball comprising:

a central core having a first hardness;

a first mantle layer surrounding said central core, said first mantle layer having a second hardness, said first hardness being harder than said second hardness; and

a cover surrounding said first mantle layer.

Claim 2. (original)      The improved game ball as described in claim 1, wherein said central core comprises a first urethane composition.

Claim 3. (currently amended)      The improved game ball as described in claim 2, wherein said first urethane composition includes a first mixture of a polyol and an isocyanate, wherein the mix ratio of polyol to isocynate is from about 100/80 parts by weight to about 100/40 parts by weight.

Claim 4. (original)      The improved game ball as described in claim 1, wherein said first mantle layer comprises a second urethane composition.

Claim 5. (currently amended)      The improved game ball as described in claim 4, wherein said ~~first~~ second urethane composition includes a second mixture of a polyol and an isocyanate.

Claim 6. (currently amended)      The improved game ball as described in claim 2 further comprising:

a second mantle layer ~~surrounding said first mantle layer, said second mantle layer~~  
positioned between said first mantle layer and said cover, said second mantle layer having a third  
hardness that is harder than said second hardness of said first mantle layer.

Claim 7. (original) The improved game ball as described in claim 5, wherein said second mantle layer comprises a third urethane composition.

Claim 8. (original) The improved game ball as described in claim 7, wherein said third urethane composition includes a first mixture of a polyol and an isocyanate.

Claim 9. (original) The improved game ball as described in claim 5 wherein said central core comprises a diameter substantially between 3.40 inches and 3.44 inches.

Claim 10. (original) The improved game ball as described in claim 5 wherein said first mantle layer comprises a thickness of substantially between 0.05 inches and 0.500 inches.

Claim 11. (currently amended) The improved game ball as described in claim 6 ~~[[5]]~~ wherein said second mantle layer comprises a thickness of substantially between 0.05 inches and 0.25 inches.

Claim 12. (currently amended) The improved game ball as described in claim 1, wherein the combination of said center core and said first mantle layer ~~composite core~~ has a coefficient of restitution at 88 feet-per-second within the range of 0.40 and 0.50.

Claim 13. (currently amended) The improved game ball as described in claim 1, wherein the compression of said game ball ~~softball~~ is less than 475 pounds.

Claim 14. (currently amended) A multi-layer game ball ~~softball~~ comprising:

a composite core including a central core having a first urethane composition and a first mantle layer having a second urethane composition, wherein said second urethane composition of said first mantle layer is softer than said first urethane composition of said center core; and

a cover surrounding said composite core.

Claim 15. (currently amended)      The multi-layer game ball ~~softball~~ as described in claim 14 further comprising:

a second mantle layer surrounding said composite core ~~first mantle layer~~, said second mantle layer positioned between said composite core ~~first mantle layer~~ and said cover, wherein said second mantle layer is harder than said first mantle layer.

Claim 16. (currently amended)      The multi-layer game ball ~~softball~~ as described in claim 15, wherein said second mantle layer comprises a third urethane composition.

Claim 17. (currently amended)      The multi-layer game ball ~~softball~~ as described in claim 14 wherein said central core comprises a diameter substantially between 3.40 inches and 3.44 inches.

Claim 18. (currently amended)      The multi-layer game ball ~~softball~~ as described in claim 14 wherein said first mantle layer comprises a thickness of substantially between 0.05 inches and 0.500 inches.

Claim 19. (currently amended)      The multi-layer game ball ~~softball~~ as described in claim 14, wherein said composite core has a coefficient of restitution at 88 feet-per-second within the range of 0.40 and 0.50.

Claim 20. (currently amended)      The multi-layer game ball ~~softball~~ as described in claim 1, wherein the compression of said game ball ~~softball~~ is less than 475 pounds.

Claim 21. (new)      The improved game ball as described in claim 3, wherein the mix ratio of polyol to isocynate produces a compression of said improved game ball between about 350 lbs. and about 550 lbs.

Claim 22. (new)      The improved game ball as described in claim 1, wherein said central core has a weight of between approximately 100 grams and approximately 115 grams, and said first mantle layer has a weight of approximately 50 grams.